

SHOCHIKU

C.C.D. J-2036

"TORIBEYAMA SHINJU" (A TRAGEDY AT TORIBEYAMA)

Written by Kido Okamoto.

To be performed by the travelling troupe.

Synopsis:

Hankuro Kikuchi, samurai of Yedo, has been under the restriction of the militaristic system for long time. But since he has come to Kyoto accompanying the Shogun, he came to know the pleasant atmosphere of the gay quarter in Gion. In this free society, no one takes to heart any ranks and offices. So Hankuro frequented the place and was attached to a young, beautiful service-girl named O-some.

Meanwhile the Shogun is reported to return Yedo before time. So unable to leave her behind, Hankuro asked his friend, Ichinosuke for some money at the cost of his sword. But Ichinosuke would not listen to him.

Genzaburo, younger brother of Ichinosuke was anxious about his brother and accused him of his dissipation at Gion.

Quite angry at Genzaburo's rude manner, Hankuro warned him, who, on the contrary, rebuked him severely. Unable to bear with his insult, Hankuro was forced to transact a duel with him.

O-some ran after them to Shijo-kawara, anxious about her lover. But Genzaburo had been already killed by him.

After all Hankuro cannot escape from the punishment of his murder. He must die in any way. But O-some cannot live without him. So the couple hurried away to Toribeyama to die together, seeking for happiness and freedom in the world to come.

S H O C H I K U

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Written by Kido Okamoto.

Characters:

Hankuro Kikuchi

Ichinosuke Sakata

Genzaburo Sakata

Hachisuke, (Kikuchi's young servant)

Yohei, (O-some's father

O-some, (service-girl of Wakamatsu in Gion)

O-hana, (service-girl)

O-yuki, (house-maid of Hanabishi)

Many other house-maids

The middle of December in the third year of Kan-ei, the Tokugawa era.
The tea-house (Chaya) in Gion of Kyoto. At night. The curtain rises with
the accompaniment of music and songs. At once Joruri (a kind of ballad-
drama) begins. Joruri (Ballad-drama) is sung as follows.

"Though O-some has come to live in the gay quarters, she is not accus-
tomed to the habit there, for she is an innocent girl. She / strays
out of the room and is looking for her father."

(O-some appears. A seventeen year-old girl.)

Osome: O-yuki has just said to me that my father of Kawarasaki has come.
Let me see. Where is he?

Joruri: "Yohei, her father, has come through the garden, and looks at her."
(Yohei, her father a merchant about fifty, appears with a bundle
over his shoulder)

Osome: Oh, Father!

Yohei: My daughter!

Osome: I am so glad to see you. Is my holiday dress made already?

Yohei: Oh yes, it is. Just look at it first.

JORURI:

"She uncovered the bundle. There come out two gala-dresses, man and womans'. One is dark purple and the other is black."

Osome: How splendid they are! Thank you very much, Father.

JORURI:

"Gladly nods the father."

Yohei: I am not boasting of them. But look at their colours. Since you came to this gay quarter, you will greet the New Year here for the first time. I am secretly anxious about you lest you should be defeated by the other girls. But a fine [samurai] of Yedo has become acquainted with you and loves you. I heard that he would make your sunday dress for you.

Osome: It is a short time since I came to this gay quarter. So I was very uneasy about my dress to wear on the New Year's fete-days. But on the first day that I appeared in company, I got acquainted with a young [samurai] of Yedo. He loved me so much and called in me day and night I have never appeared before other men I think you will be glad of it.

Yohei: Yes, that is because I tried to have fine dresses made without much expenses, one for you and the other for the [warrior]. So I consulted directly with my intimate merchant about the dresses, neglecting the draper in regular employ of this house. These dresses are twenty or thirty percent cheaper than the ordinary ones. Just look at them. Wonderful colors! You may be proud of them. Just wear yours.

Osome: How impatient you are! I ought not wear it before I show it to to him. When the New Year comes e----

Yohei: I dream of you in this dress!

Osome: Please come to see me at that occasion.

Yohei: Shall I come to worship you?

Osome: Don't joke, Father!

JORURI:

"He stood up, but looked back at her."

Yohei: Please send my best love to him. Don't forget to tell him my hearty thanks. Are you sure?

Osome: To be sure, Father.

Yohei: Take good care of yourself as bad influenza is prevailing nowadays.

Osome: Yes, Father.

Yohei: By the way, does the [warrior] drink?

Osome: Yes, he drinks very much.

Yohei: He may drink as much as he likes. But you should not drink too much with him. That will be injurious to your health.

Osome: I know it very well.

Yohei: Now, don't forget to send him my word.

Osome: No, never. But don't forget the way home yourself.

Yohei: She has got used to this quarter and become impertinent.

JORURI:

"Laughing he goes back on his way home."

Osome: Father is so exulted for the sake of the [samurai] Hankuro. I am sorry I have escaped from him. Now I shall go to him quickly.

(There appears Mankuro Kikuchi, a warrior of Yedo, who got drunk. He is twenty-two years old.)

Osome: Oh, you!

Hankuro: Where have you been, leaving me alone? Have you seen your lover?

Osome: I have seen such dresses.

(She shows him the two dresses.)

Han.: Are the dresses ready? As they say that it is the custom, I had to make the new dress to match yours. But does it suit such a rustic, man like me? Well, anyway, keep it. But I am afraid the day will not come for me to wear it just as you do.

Osome: Why, in the world, can't you wear it together with me?

Han.: The day is pressing for the Shogun to return Yedo. To tell you the

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truth, our Lord came to Kyoto at the beginning of last month and I, as one of his vassals, accompanied him. During my sojourn here in Kyoto, I became acquainted with you I thought I could stay here until next January. But it was suddenly announced by the chief director that our Lord changed his plan and was going to leave here within this year to observe the ceremony of New Year in Yedo. Now that the change of the plan was announced, I think I can't stay here longer anyway. At least within a week ---

Osome: Are you going to leave me?

Han.: It is two months since I have known you. Though we have met so frequently, we are not so deeply devoted to each other. To say nothing of our love, I deeply sympathized with you who were not accustomed to the atmosphere of such a quarter. So I came ~~t~~ here night and day to guard you from the evil. However, as a warrior, my important duty is to serve my Lord. I ought not to slip out his suite and stay here. You will understand me; will you?

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Osome: Indeed. (She weeps.)

Han.: As Ichinosuke forced me to do, I drank much more than usual. I am deadly drunk. Now, Osome, just bring me a cup of water.

Osome: All right, sir. (She enters within.)

Han.: Poor girl! I am so drunk. I can't bear with it.

JORURI:

"How miserable Osome is! She suddenly looks haggard and careworn as if she were a hundred years old. Her voice trembles because of the grief of his departure."

Osome: I have brought the water, sir. Oh, he is sleeping. I remember an evening of last month when I first went into company. They said the guests were all ~~all~~ ^{OK} samurais and my boss called my attention to be careful about my behavior before them.

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JORURI:

"When she appeared before them, she looked sad and forlorn as she was not accustomed to the place."

Osome: I was crying as I was so distressed, when someone came behind me and asked geally "Why are you crying? If you are so distressed,

⑨ "I'll help you." That was fine brave awarrior.

JORURI:

Osome: I was so glad to hear it. I am ashamed to say that I called him back that night. My comrades envied me saying that I found a good patron at the beginning. I spoke of him proudly to my father. But all of a sudden, I am very unfortunate again.

Han.: Pitiful she is! She laments over her misfortune in sobbing. Suddenly noises are heard within the house and Ichinosuke totters out in high spirits, taking Ohana by her hand.

Ichinosuke: Now, Hankuro! Where are you? Oh, here is Osome, and so Hankuro. (Ichinosuke is drunken, too.)

Ohana: Both of you are so bad to escape from us secretly. I can't forgive you. Can I, Ichinosuke?

Ich.: No, you cannot, of course. How shall we punish both of you? However, wake him.

Ohana: Yes. (She raises Hankuro in her arms.) Now, sir. Your friend is here.

Han.: (He opens his eyes.) Oh, Ichinosuke! Are you going to drink again in another room? That is a fine idea.
(He gets up. Osome takes out the cup of water. He drinks it.)

Ich.: Now, maids, come here.

(Ohana slaps her hands, so there come out many maids from within.)

Ich.: Now make merry, all of you. We can't have a jolly time more than several days. Let us enjoy ourselves as a souvenir of Kyoto.

Ohana: I am sorry to part with you as we became intimate friends. I am depressed to think that I can't see you again. Do you know it, Osome?

Osome: Yes, I have just heard of it.

Ich.: You must have wept to hear it. Don't conceal it. Your face is stained with tears. Ha! Ha! Ha! Now Hankuro, Why have you dumb? Why are you so vexed and uneasy?

Han.: Well, Ichinosuke, you are my best friend since my childhood. I entreat you freely.

Ich.: What is it?

Han.: It is strange to say this in such a place. But I cannot wait for another chance. Can you lend me two hundred ryo? I know you have not the money with you now as you are from home. But I know you are intimate with many sword-shops in Kyoto. My sword was made in Bizen. Negotiate with one of the sword-merchants and borrow two hundred ryo for my sword.

Ich.: Unexpected request. What do you use the money for?

Han.: I want to acquire a nightingale of Kyoto.

Ich.: Nightingale of Kyoto! You are very poetic.

(He looks back at Osome and understands the meaning of his friends' words.) Well, are you to take the nightingale to Yedo?

Han.: No, I am contented if I could set her free. She may go back to her old nest.

Ohana: A nightingale of two hundred ryo?

(She looks back at Osome.)

Ich.: Don't interfere in our affair, Ohana. Now Hankuro, I appreciate very well that you are brave enough to say it before the whole company. But I think your idea is not so practical. You are too honest.

Han.: What!

Ich.: I like a nightingale, too. I listen to the songs of nightingales wherever I go. Particularly here in Kyoto, I enjoyed them, regardless of expenses. But they are not but temporary amusements after all. In Yedo, there are other nightingales.

Han.: That is why I don't to take her to Yedo. But her song is so pathetic that I want to set her free from the cage. I am a stubborn man, but I am easily moved by nature, as you know. I am not a rich man, so I intend to sell the precious sword of my house. Just think of my heart.

Ich.: You are going to sell the precious sword to buy the nightingale not to make it yours, but only to set her free. You are indiscreet. Don't brood so much over such a matter.

JORURI:

"Ichinosuke was indifferent to his entreat Osome thanked Hankuro,

and his vassals who accompanied him up to Kyoto should leave here before long. So we are busy not only for transacting business for the vassals and for paying of the purchases, but also for buying the souvenirs. We also have to run about here and there, to get talis mans for the old.

However on the other hand, you continued to stay in this gay

quarter, quite indifferent to those whos are busy. I can manage our own private businesses by myself. But as to your official business, can you neglect it? Do you know that the responsibility rests with you? Just think whether it is your merit to leave the responsibility to your brother?

Ichii.: Speak no more. I know it well. Go back first as I shall go afterwards.

Gen.: If you go back, I will go with you. Now be ready.

Ichii.: You claim me too much. When I return, I must make many preparations. Now go first.

Gen.: Brother!

Ichii.: Don't say tasteless things.

(Ichinosuke exits with Ohana and other maids.)

Gen.: Miserable man! I must advise him to go with me. Yes, I must.
(Hankuro who have been lying gets up.)

Han.: Genzaburo, wait a minute!

Gen.: Oh, Hankuro!

Han.: It is awkward to make a fuss in such a place. You had better go home this evening without any word. I am sure I can take him with me. Be at ease, sir.

Gen.: I cannot be at ease, as you are the same kind of profligate. How can I believe you? It is all through you that my brother has come to reduce himself to dissipation.

Han.: Don't be angry so much. You are too young to understand others. The reason why I stay in this place is quite different from his reason. Now go back without a word.

Gen.: It depends on my own free wil whether I go or not.

Osome: As Hankuro says, wait for a moment, sir.

Gen.: Get our of the way!

JORURI:

"As he thrusts her down, she bell down breaking dishes on the table."
Hankuro is a hot-tempered man."

Han.: Stay, Genzaburo! I have tolerated your rude remarks and behavior as I thought you were a young fellow. But this time I cannot bear with you I will not let you go unless you make an apologize. Or I will throw you down out of the house.

Gen.: I am not a man to be afraid of such a threat. You induced my brother to degradation, taking him to this gay quarter night and day.

(13) [You have brought disgrace to the samurais of Yedo.] Unless you yourself beg pardon of me, I will not forgive you.

Osome: I cannot say which of you is right or wrong. Are you not friends? Forgive each other.

(14) Han.: No, I can't forgive you any more. [How could you call me a disgrace to the samurais of Yedo?] Tell me the reason.

Gen.: It is not necessary to tell you the reason. Can we praise a idle man indulged in dissipated life? I can repeat the reason if you want.
Hankuro Kikuchi is a disgrace and a shame to us!

(15) Han.: Damn it! I think you are prepared for the revenge now that you said such an insult to me.

Gen.: Don't be anxious. I am always prepared for anything.

Han.: It is no use to speak any more. Now Genzaburo, come to the river-beach with me where we shall settle the affair with the sword.

Osome: Both of you are too reckless. You ought not cross your swords. I pray you. Please reconcile with each other.

Gen.: Taking advantage of her arbitration, are you going to sheathe the sword? Coward!

Han.: Never! Don't escape, rascal!

JORURI:

"They kicked down Osome and ran to the river-bed. Having notime to call to the other, Osome ran after them. Dark road at midnight. Only the sound of the river is heard in the Shijo-kawara. (the river-beach of Shijo.) of dreary winter."

Yohei: What a dark night! I had better go through the street in such a dark night. It seems late in the night as I strayed on the way from Gion. I will hurry up.

(The song of a plover.)

Yohei: Oh, a plover is singing. Though I get used to it, how pathetic his song is! I am sure my daughter, Osome, may be proudly showing her gala-dress to her patron at this time of the day. I feel quite at ease that she found such a reliable patron. Oh, the plover is sing! How cold it is! I must hurry up lest I should take a cold. Oh, the moon has begun to stream through the break of the clouds.

(He is about to leave, but he turns backward.)

Yohei: Oh, some are crossing the swords. Oh, how the swords are shining! They are drawing near here. I must hurry up lest I should get hurt in the combat.

JORURI:

"He does not know that the combat will become the cause of his lamentation and hurrys along." (Yohei exits in a hurry. Hankuro and Genzaburo come out crossing their sword. The moon disappears from time to time and they fight groping for each other in the darkness. Finally Hankuro slays the other. The moon begins to shine. Osome runs to him.)

Han.: Oh, Osome!

Osome: Aren't you got hurt, dear? How about your enemy?

Han.: As you see him here.

Osome: What!

JORURI:

"She was so frightened at the first sight of the dead body that she began to tremble. Quite composed, Hankuro sheathed his sword. His heart was full of sorrow and suffering.

(He drinks the water of the river with his hand. Osome makes signs that she wants to drink, too. So Hankuro break a piece of cloth from his clothes and soaks it into her mouth.)

Han.: You must have been frightened to see the blood. Are you settled now?

Osome: Yes. [I don't know nothing about the order of the samurais,] but are you not punished for your murder?

Han.: I am hot-tempered by nature. Quite drunken, and unable to bear with his insult, I killed my comrade. I remember we were ordered by the chief director that we should be careful about our behavior during our sojourn in Kyoto. ^{for} But in spite of his caution, I committed the murder in the very gay quarter on account of a dispute. I cannot avoid the punishment.

Osome: Even a samurai like you cannot escape it.

Han.: I am sure I must commit harakiri.

Osome: Alas! ----- Well, sir, it is only I that know your crime. Take to flight quickly as there is no one to see you.

Han.: Nonsense! I am not such a coward man. [It's my duty to subject myself to the punishment as I killed my comrade.] It may be humiliating for you perhaps if it is announced that I, your patron, have committed the murder. But this is an ill luck for you. Forgive me.

Osome: You are too good to me. I am much obliged to you for your kindness day and night for two months. Moreover you tried to rescue me from the evil world and make me return home at the cost of your precious sword you are too kind to me. If you must die, let me die with you.

Han.: That's a reckless idea. Imagine your father's grief if you should die for the sake of me?

Osome: I know it very well. But I cannot live without you. When you told your departure, I felt as if I had lost my soul. There is no other man like you. Since I first appeared into company, I have served you only, I love you only as my husband.

Han.: I can not let you stay in Gion, so I tried to set you free. But my plan was unsuccessful. Under such circumstances, I think it's better to kill you in order to save you from degradation. Oh, I fell in love with a maiden who, reduced to impurity, is still pure!

Osome: I leave you no longer.

Han.: Then shall we die here?

Osome: Well.

Han.: Well. Rather than to die here on the river-beach, it's better to go to Toribeyama where the dead are carried to be buried.

Osome: Let us wear our new dresses rather than leave them behind.

Han.: [It's a custom of the warriors to be clad in armour when they are prepared to die in the battle.]

Osome: Let us go back to the tea-house in Gion in secret.

Han.: And bring our dresses. Now, Osome, come here.

Osome: Yes, sir.

(Hachisuke, Hankuro's servant, appears in a hurry.)

Hachi.: What a dark night! The moon disappeared again.

(Oyuki appears and runs against Hachisuke.)

Oyuki: Excuse me, sir.

Hachi.: You're Oyuki, aren't you?

Oyuki: You are Hachisuke.

Hachi.: I have come to take my master on an emergent business ordered by the chief director. Perhaps he may be in.

Oyuki: No, the matter became serious your master, Hankuro has gone to Shijogawara to combat with Genzaburo, brother of Ichinosuke.

Hachi.: When was it that they went out?

Oyuki: They went out just now.

Hachi.: Then I may hear the clattering of the swords. Anyway it's a serious matter. Bring me a lantern quickly I can't walk in such a dark night.

Oyuki: Very good, sir.

Hachi.: It's serious matter. Why did he fight with him, I wonder? I'm so impatient. Can I find them on this river-bank?

(He exits./ Sound of a gong.)

JORURI:

"The man and woman hurried along to Toribeyama to die there Osome is dressed in pure white. Over the white dress she wore a purple crested gown and a black satin sash. She wears a purple veil over her face. Hankuro is also dressed in white. He wears a black figured

satin veil over his face.

Han.: They are playing samisen in the Gion.

Osome: They are making merry in the gay quarter. When I see them making merry -----

JORURI:

"When I see them making merry, I remember last November when I first met you."

Osome: Oh, it's useless to repeat it. Let us go quickly.

Han.: Osome!

Osome: My dear!

(The moon disappears. They are going to pass by, arm in arm, when Oyuki, with a lantern in her hand, appears with Ichinosuke.)

Ich.: The couple over there?

(Oyuki draws near them and hands up the lantern, which Hankuro strikes down.) (Hachisuke appears, too, and walks against Hankuro

Hachi- who pushes out the former Hankuro runs away taking Osome by her hand. All look at the lover who walked away to death.

(The gong of the bell. The curtain falls.)

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